AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A vector or plasmid comprising an isolated DNA encoding vitamin B_6 phosphate phosphatase selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a DNA sequence of SEQ ID NO:9;

(b) a DNA sequence encoding a polypeptide having vitamin B_6 phosphate phosphatase activity, which ~~and~~ hybridizes under stringent hybridization and stringent washing conditions to the DNA sequence defined in (a) or a fragment thereof, wherein the stringent hybridization and stringent washing conditions comprise hybridizing in 5xSSC, 0.3% SDS, 2% blocking reagent, 0.1% N-lauroylsarcosine, 50% formamide overnight at 42° C and washing twice in 2xSSC, 0.1% SDS at room temperature for 5 minutes and then washing twice in 0.1xSSC, 0.1% SDS at 50° C to 68° C for 15 minutes;

(c) a DNA sequence encoding a polypeptide having vitamin B_6 phosphate phosphatase activity, wherein said polypeptide is at least 95% ~~70%~~ identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:10;

(d) a DNA sequence encoding a polypeptide having vitamin B_6 phosphate phosphatase activity and is at least 95% ~~70%~~ identical to the DNA sequence of SEQ ID NO:9; and

(e) a degenerate DNA sequence of any one of (a) to (c).

Claim 2. (Cancelled).

Claim 3. (Withdrawn) A polypeptide encoded by the isolated DNA of claim 1.

Claim 4. (Currently amended) A recombinant microorganism of the genus *Sinorhizobium* or *Escherichia*, capable of producing vitamin B_6 from vitamin B_6 phosphate, wherein said microorganism is transformed with a DNA encoding vitamin B_6 phosphate phosphatase selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a DNA sequence of SEQ ID NO:9;

(b) a DNA sequence encoding a polypeptide having vitamin B_6 phosphate phosphatase activity, which ~~and~~ hybridizes under stringent hybridization and stringent washing conditions to the DNA sequence defined in (a) or a fragment thereof, wherein the stringent hybridization and stringent washing conditions comprise hybridizing in 5xSSC, 0.3% SDS, 2% blocking reagent, 0.1% N-lauroylsarcosine, 50% formamide overnight at 42° C and washing twice in 2xSSC, 0.1% SDS at room temperature for 5 minutes and then washing twice in 0.1xSSC, 0.1% SDS at 50° C to 68° C for 15 minutes;

(c) a DNA sequence encoding a polypeptide having vitamin B_6 phosphate phosphatase activity, wherein said polypeptide is at least 95% ~~70%~~ identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:10;

(d) a DNA sequence encoding a polypeptide having vitamin B_6 phosphate phosphatase activity and is at least 95% ~~70%~~ identical to the DNA sequence of SEQ ID NO:9; and

(e) a degenerate DNA sequence of any one of (a) to (c).

Claim 5. (Original) The microorganism of claim 4, wherein said microorganism is *Sinorhizobium meliloti* IFO 14782 having pVKPtacpdxP (*S. meliloti* IFO 14782/pVKPtacpdxP).

Claim 6. (Original) The microorganism of claim 4, wherein said microorganism is *Escherichia coli* JM109 having pKKpdxP (*E. coli* JM109/pKKpdxP).

Claim 7. (Original) A process for preparing a cell-free extract having vitamin B_6 phosphate phosphatase activity, which comprises cultivating the microorganism according to claim 4 wherein the microorganism is cultivated under conditions in a medium containing an assimilable carbon source, a digestible nitrogen source, inorganic salts, and other nutrients necessary for the growth of the microorganism at a pH value of about 5.0 to about 9.0, at a temperature about 5°C to about 45°C, and for 1 day to about 15 days under aerobic conditions, and disrupting cells of the microorganism.

Claim 8. (Withdrawn) The process for producing vitamin B_6 from vitamin B_6 phosphate which comprises contacting vitamin B_6 phosphate with the cell-free extract of microorganism according to claim 4 in a reaction mixture, and recovering the resulting vitamin B_6 from the reaction mixture.

Claim 9. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 7, wherein said microorganism is *Sinorhizobium* melilo*t*i IFO 14782 having pVKPtacpdxP (*S. meliloti* IFO 14782/pVKPtacpdxP).

Claim 10. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 7, wherein said microorganism is *Escherichia coli* JM 109 having pKKpdxP (*E. coli* JM 109/pKKpdxP).

Claim 11. (Previously presented) A recombinant microorganism of the genus Sinorhizobium or Escherichia, capable of producing vitamin B_6 from vitamin B_6 phosphate, wherein said microorganism is transformed with the vector or plasmid of claim 1.

Claim 12. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 8, wherein said microorganism is Sinorhizobium meliloti IFO 14782 having pVKPtacpdxP (S. meliloti IFO 14782/pvKPtacpdxP).

Claim 13. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 8, wherein said microorganism is Escherichia coli JM109 having pKKpdxP (E. coli. JM 109/pKKpdxP).

Claim 14. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:9.

Claim 15. (Previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence that encodes the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:10.